

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
WESTERN DIVISION**

STELLA SHOOK,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 04-0089-CV-W-FJG-SSA
	)	
JO ANNE B. BARNHART,	)	
Commissioner, Social Security	)	
Administration	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

**ORDER**

This action is for judicial review of a final decision by the Commissioner of Social Security denying plaintiff's claim for a period of disability under Sec. 216(i) and for disability insurance benefits under Sec. 223(a) of the Social Security Act as amended. This action is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g)(1981). Plaintiff's application for disability insurance benefits was denied initially and on reconsideration. On September 22, 2003, following a hearing the ALJ rendered a decision finding that plaintiff was not under a disability as defined by the Act. On December 19, 2003, the Appeals Council of the Social Security Administration, denied plaintiff's request for review. Thus, the decision of the ALJ stands as the final decision of the Commissioner. The facts and arguments are presented in the parties' briefs and will not be repeated here.

The Eighth Circuit recently stated the standard for judicial review of an ALJ's denial of benefits:

We must uphold the ALJ's decision if it is supported by substantial evidence. . . . Our task is not to reweigh the evidence, and we may not

reverse the Commissioner's decision merely because substantial evidence would have supported an opposite conclusion or merely because we would have decided the case differently. . . . In determining whether substantial evidence supports the ALJ's decision, we must consider evidence in the record that supports the ALJ's decision as well as evidence that detracts from it.

Harwood v. Apfel, 186 F.3d 1039, 1042 (8th Cir. 1999)(citations omitted).

“Substantial evidence is less than a preponderance, but enough that a reasonable mind might accept it as adequate to support a decision.’ . . . We also evaluate whatever evidence contradicts the Commissioner's decision, rather than simply searching the record for supporting evidence.” Rankin v. Apfel, No. 99-1601, 1999 WL 1012297, \*1 (8th Cir. Nov. 9, 1999), citing, Cox v. Apfel, 160 F.3d 1203, 1206-07 (8th Cir. 1998).

The Court has reviewed the parties' briefs, the decision of the ALJ, the transcript of the hearing and the medical and documentary evidence. After this review, the Court finds substantial evidence in the record to support the Commissioner's decision. Accordingly, it is hereby **ORDERED** that plaintiff's motion to reverse the final decision of the ALJ is hereby **DENIED** (Doc. # 9) and the decision of the Commissioner is hereby **AFFIRMED**.

Date: September 30, 2005  
Kansas City, Missouri

**S/ FERNANDO J. GAITAN JR.**  
Fernando J. Gaitan Jr.  
United States District Judge